



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Second Sunday in Lent                      March 5, 2023**

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Minister: Rev. Diana Edis  
Videographer: George Edis

Musician: Larissa Goruk  
Reader: Herman Seidemann

Worship is live streamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/princerupertlutheran/>.  
You do not need a Facebook account to access worship.

*Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

### Weekly Prayer Petitions

**Local:** St. Andrews Anglican Cathedral – Fr. Paul Williams

**Synod Parishes:** Our Redeemer Lutheran, Penticton, Trinity Anglican/Lutheran Church, Port Alberni

**ACC:** Bishop, people, and clergy of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

**ELCIC:** The dean, council and congregations of the Northern Area of the Eastern Synod

### Discipleship Opportunities

1. The Pastor is Public, Javadotcup Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11:30AM.
2. We gather for special worship each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM during Lent. This is a time set aside for quiet reflection, bible readings, and communal singing. We take this Lenten journey of self-reflection so that we can be clear-eyed in professing our faith and living out our thankfulness in a hurting and hopeful world.

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\* Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.

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*Announcements*

*Confession and Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

*As the Winter Days Grow Longer*

No. 924 ACS

1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,  
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,

as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—  
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—  
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.

yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.  
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.

God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
 Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version  
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 Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
 C: And also with you.

*Kyrie*

*God Loved the World*

No. 323 (vs 2)

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

*Prayer of the Day*

**O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Our first reading is from Genesis, beginning at the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter

12:1-4a

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you

will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

L: The word of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God**

We read Psalm 12 responsively: (*leader reads the light print, congregation reads the bold*)

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Our second reading is from Romans beginning at the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter

4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: The word of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Gospel Acclamation*

*page 179*



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

L: The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

Hymn of the Day

We are Baptized In Christ Jesus

No. 451



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap-tized in his death;  
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir-it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;  
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo-ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
in the los - ing and the win-ning we hold fast.  
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed. We confess:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these siblings will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Pat Cristiano, Laurie Cullen, George Edis, Larissa Goruk, Tom Kertes, Susan Paul, Sherri Ritson-Rogers, Herman Seidemann, Sheila Seidemann, and Lori Wilson.

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and stewardship, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world. You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation. On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as officers and council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession:* (petition end: Merciful God)

(petition response: **Receive our prayer.**)

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Offering*

*Offerings may be mailed to the church, placed in our mailbox, sent by e-transfer to [offering2stpauls@citywest.ca](mailto:offering2stpauls@citywest.ca), or given through CanadaHelps to St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.*

*Offering Prayer*

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.**

*We enter a time of communion. All people are invited to receive God's meal. If you wish to receive, this meal is for you. If you would like to learn more about communion please speak with the pastor after worship. Those at home may prepare bread and wine or juice for your worship space. When the bread and beverage are offered by the pastor and you eat and drink you may respond, "Amen." Those worshipping online in the same household are encouraged to serve one another.*

*We have both bread and gluten-free wafers, wine and juice; please let your server know which options are needed.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

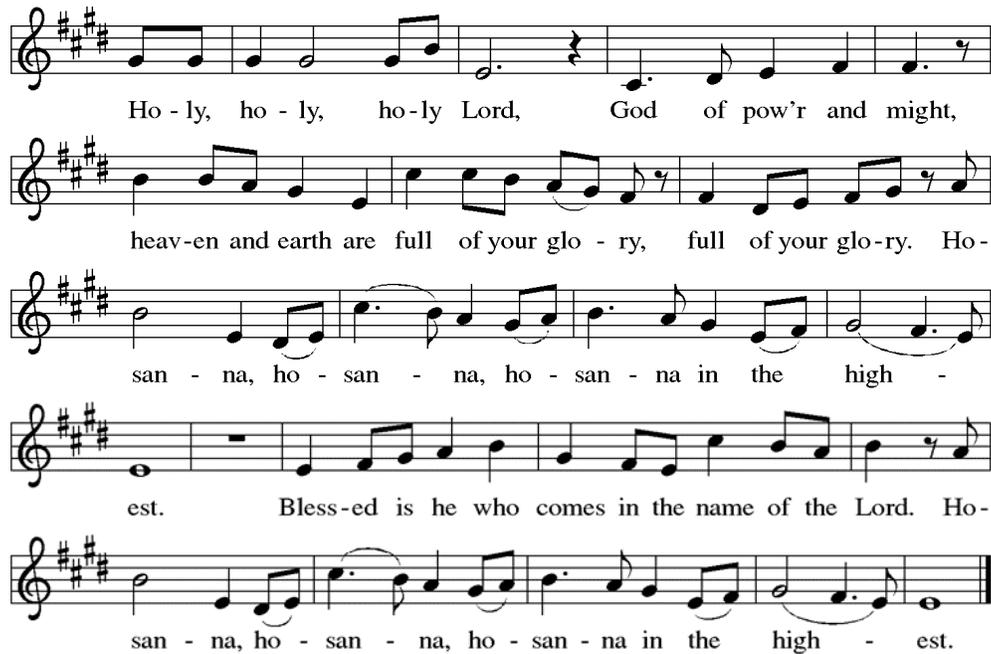
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy*

pg 190



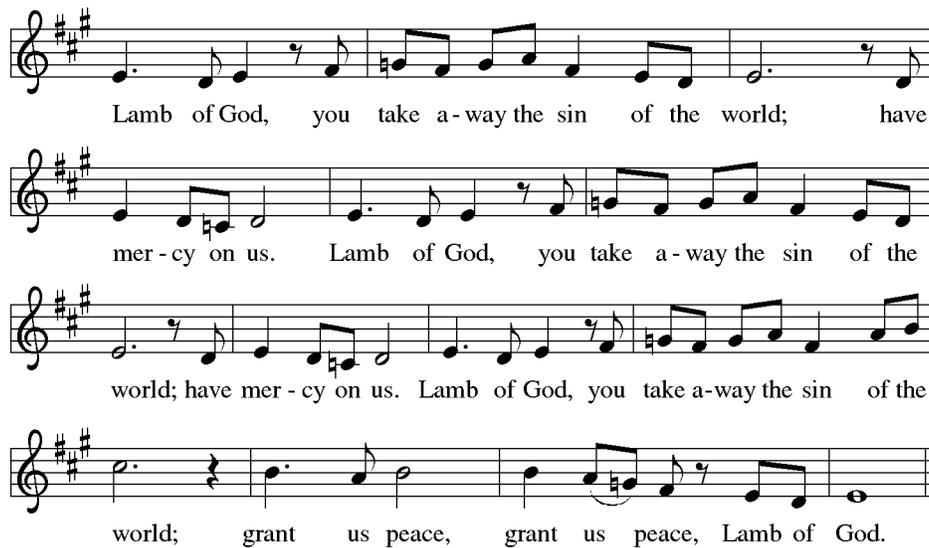
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you... blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen**

L: Gathered into one across time and space by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using whatever version of that prayer comforts you. We pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

*Communion*

*Hymns during communion:*

*As the Grains of Wheat*

No. 465

*There's A Wideness in God's Mercy*

No. 588

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour strengthen you to eternal life.

**Amen**

*Prayer after communion*

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

*Blessing*

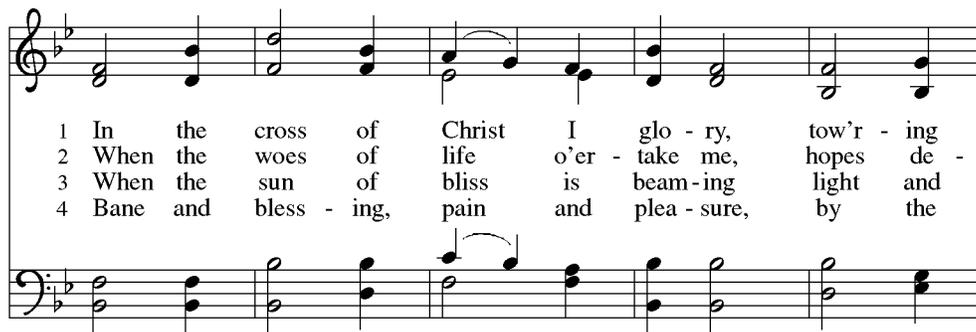
God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

*Sending Hymn*

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

No. 324



1 In the cross of Christ I glo-ry, tow'r-ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes de-  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing light and  
4 Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears annoy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872  
 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

Go in peace. Serve in love  
**Thanks be to God.**